



HR0456

LRB101 12758 MST 61591 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. Rhonda Towner on the
4 occasion of her retirement, after 40 years of working in the
5 field of education; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Towner received her Bachelor of Arts and
7 Master of Science in Education from Chicago State University;
8 she began her career in education in February of 1979 as a high
9 school music teacher at Simeon High School in Chicago; during
10 her time as a Chicago public school teacher, she also taught
11 grades pre-k and 3rd; she later taught 1st grade at a Chicago
12 parochial school for five years; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Towner's administrative career began in 1986
14 when she became the first African-American lay principal of a
15 pre-k through eighth grade parochial school in the South Shore
16 neighborhood of Chicago; in 1993, her career brought her back
17 to the public school system when she became the principal of
18 the Early Learning Center in Calumet Park; she was instrumental
19 in the design and building of the new primary school in the
20 district, which was renamed Burr Oak Academy; during her tenure
21 in Calumet Park, she served as a bilingual coordinator, a
22 fiscal manager of the Title I program, a grant writer, and as
23 an assessment coordinator; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2000, Dr. Towner received her Doctorate in
2 Educational Administration and Supervision from Loyola
3 University in Chicago; she then became the principal of Maya
4 Angelou Elementary School in Harvey; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Towner joined South Holland District 151 in
6 2002 as the principal of Eisenhower Elementary School; in 2009,
7 she received her Chief School Business Official certification
8 from Governors State University; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Towner has been married for 36 years to
10 Dennis; they have two daughters and three granddaughters; she
11 intends to continue to work in some capacity in education,
12 however she plans to spend her retirement traveling, pursuing
13 her love for music, completing her bucket list items, spending
14 more time with family and friends, and cleaning her house;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Dr. Rhonda Towner on her retirement after 40
19 years of working in the field of education, and we wish her the
20 best in all her future endeavors; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Dr. Towner as a symbol of our respect and esteem.